

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH:FLW
APPROVED BY EA - MR. GLEYSSTEEN
EA/K - AMB. SNEIDER
S/S-O - SVALERGA

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P 021718Z JUN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 139905

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NEW ROK OFFER CONCERNING CONGRESSIONAL
ACCESS TO FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG-JO

1. SHORTLY BEFORE AMBASSADOR SNEIDER DEPARTED SEOUL TO
RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE TESTIMONY,
FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-JIN INFORMALLY RAISED THE POSSI-
BILITY THAT THE AMBASSADOR SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY TO
TALK WITH KIM DONG-JO, DISCUSS QUESTIONS POSED BY THE
ETHICS COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS, AND THEN ASSIST IN
REDUCING TO WRITING IN ENGLISH THE RESPONSES MADE BY KIM.
THE WRITTEN STATEMENT COULD THEN BE SIGNED BY KIM DONG-JO.

2. THIS IDEA WAS BROACHED INFORMALLY ONLY, AND CLEARLY WE
WERE NOT BEING AUTHORIZED AT THE TIME TO CONVEY IT AS AN
ROKG PROPOSAL. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT HE WOULD
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CONSULT IMMEDIATELY IN WASHINGTON AND RESPOND TO THE
FOREIGN MINISTER THROUGH AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK HERE.

3. FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE LEGAL ADVISOR AND
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, OUR WILLINGNESS TO UNDERTAKE
THIS CHORE AND ALSO TO CONVEY THE PROPOSAL TO THE ETHICS
COMMITTEES IF DESIRED WAS PASSED TO AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-

SHIK MAY 26. WE UNDERSTAND THAT KIM YONG-SHIK ENDORSED THE
PROPOSAL AND IMMEDIATELY COMMUNICATED WITH THE FOREIGN
MINISTER.

4. IN VIEW OF AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S SHORT STAY IN
WASHINGTON AND THE OBVIOUS NEED FOR HIM TO CONSULT
PERSONALLY WITH THE TWO ETHICS COMMITTEES PRIOR TO HIS
RETURN TO SEOUL IF THIS SUGGESTION WERE TO BE CARRIED
OUT, WE HAD SUGGESTED A PROMPT RESPONSE FROM THE ROKG
AUTHORIZING US TO CONVEY THIS OFFER TO THE COMMITTEES
AS A ROK PROPOSAL.

5. THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED. THE ROK AMBASSADOR DID
RECEIVE AN INTERIM RESPONSE FROM FONMIN PAK JUNE 1 INDI-
CATING THAT HE WAS TRYING TO ACHIEVE GOVERNMENTAL
CONSENSUS TO PROCEED ON HIS INFORMAL SUGGESTION BUT THAT
CONSENSUS HAS NOT YET BEEN ACHIEVED.

6. FURTHERMORE, WE UNDERSTAND FROM PETER WHITE THAT
LEON JAWORSKI MAY HAVE SET HIMSELF A DEADLINE OF AROUND
JUNE 7 OR 8 BY WHICH TIME HE EITHER WILL OR WILL NOT HAVE
A ROKG RESPONSE ON KIM DONG-JO. WE HAVE GIVEN HIM NO
REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ANY CHANCE FOR FULL
ROKG ACCEPTANCE OF HIS PRESENT TERMS, BUT HAVE INDICATED
THAT SOME FURTHER OFFER BY THE KOREANS MAY BE POSSIBLE.
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7. AMBASSADOR SNEIDER DEPARTS TODAY AND WILL CONSULT WITH
ROKG ON HIS RETURN. CHRISTOPHER

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